

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 7: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY

1. PORTUGAL ASKS INDONESIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN
TIMOR

A LISBON FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED EMBASSY
LISBON THAT THE GOP IS "ON THE VERGE" OF INVITING
INDONESIAN AND AUSTRALIAN INTERVENTION IN PORTUGUESE
TIMOR. THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR LATER TOLD THE
EMBASSY THAT THE INVITATION HAS ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED TO
THE AUSTRALIAN AND INDONESIAN EMBASSIES, AND:

--AUSTRALIA HAS DECLINED TO INTERVENE.

--INDONESIA WILL "JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO MOVE IN," AND
ALREADY HAS SEVERAL DESTROYERS EN ROUTE TO DILI WITH
ORDERS TO FIGHT IF ATTACKED.

THE PORTUGUESE DECISION TO REQUEST FOREIGN INTERVENTION
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IS A DESPERATE ONE WITH THE FOLLOWING PROBABLE CON-
SEQUENCES:

--FRETILIN WILL MASSACRE ITS PORTUGUESE AND AUSTRALIAN

HOSTAGES, THEN MOVE ON THE REMAINING PORTUGUESE ENCLAVE IN DILI.

--INDONESIA WILL RETALIATE WITH A SLAUGHTER OF FRETELIN PARTISANS.

2. SMITH ANNOUNCES FAILURE OF RHODESIA TALKS

PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH TOLD THE RHODESIAN PARLIAMENT TODAY THAT HIS TALKS WITH BLACK NATIONALIST LEADERS HAD FAILED. HE SAID HE WILL SEEK A POLITICAL DEAL WITH MODERATE BLACKS WHO WILL NOT PRESS FOR IMMEDIATE MAJORITY RULE.

3. ANGOLA

A. MPLA'S POSITION GROWS STRONGER

CONSUL GENERAL KILLORAN REPORTS THAT THE MPLA, WITH GREATER MANPOWER, SOVIET ARMS AND BETTER LEADERSHIP, HAS HELD ITS OWN AGAINST THE FNLA, AND THREATENS TO PREVENT UNITA FROM ESTABLISHING A ZONE OF INFLUENCE. REGARDING THE SITUATION OF THE OTHER CONTESTANTS:

--THE FNLA, DEPENDENT UPON ZAIRE, ITSELF BESET BY PROBLEMS, AND LACKING LEADERSHIP, IS IN A WEAK POSITION, AT LEAST IN THE SHORT RUN.

--UNITA, TORN BY INTERNAL DISSENSION AND FACING THE MOST CRUCIAL PERIOD IN ITS EXISTENCE, IS IN NO SHAPE TO FIGHT.

--THE PORTUGUESE ARE IN AN IMPOSSIBLE DILEMMA. WITHOUT SUFFICIENT TROOPS AND THE WILL TO FIGHT THEIR STRATEGY OF PROMOTING A DIALOGUE AMONG THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, TAKING OVER ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND FORCING THE MPLA OUT OF LUANDA HAS NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

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B. UN INTERVENTION WOULD BE DANGEROUS

AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN SAYS THAT UNSYG WALDHEIM HAS INFORMED HIM OF PORTUGUESE APPROACHES CONCERNING POSSIBLE UN INTERVENTION TO RESTORE ORDER IN ANGOLA. WALDHEIM SAID THAT THE GOP HAD NO WHERE TO TURN IF THE UN DOES NOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: IN A SITUATION SPIRALING TOWARD CHAOS WE CAN HARDLY AFFORD TO OPPOSE PUBLICLY A UN ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY. HOWEVER, THIS WOULD BE FRAUGHT WITH DANGER FOR THE UN AND THE US:

--THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE UNABLE TO AGREE ON A PEACEKEEPING REGIME IN ANGOLA.

--EVEN IF SOMEHOW A UN-SPONSORED REGIME WERE ESTABLISHED, IT WOULD BE TORN BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND THE CHINESE AND THE UN SYSTEM WOULD BE PUT TO AN UNPRECEDENTED TEST.

FROM THE NEW YORK VANTAGE POINT, AND WITHOUT JUDGING ITS EFFECTS ON THE PROSPECTS FOR DEMOCRACY IN LISBON, IT IS EASY TO CONCLUDE THAT WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE PORTUGAL TO CONTINUE IN ITS PRESENT ROLE.

C. PORTUGUESE CONTACT MOBUTU ON ANGOLAN STRIFE

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY KINSHASA THE OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN NEWS AGENCY (AZAP) REPORTS THAT PORTUGUESE CHIEF OF MILITARY HOUSEHOLD, GENERAL FONTES PEREIRA DE MELLO, MET AUGUST 23 WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND DELIVERED A PERSONAL NOTE FROM COSTA GOMES APPARENTLY ON PORTUGAL'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ANGOLAN CONFLICT. AZAP SAYS THAT:

--PORTUGAL INTENDS TO HONOR THE NOVEMBER 11 TARGET DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE; REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA; AND CANNOT ARRANGE PEACE IN THE TERRITORY WITHOUT ZAIRIAN COOPERATION.

--AGOSTINHO NETO'S MPLA, WITH THE AID OF EX-KATANGA GENDARME MERCENARIES, IS TO BLAME FOR CONTINUED STRIFE
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IN ANGOLA.

4. ARGENTINA: PERONIST PARTY MEETING REVEALS DISUNITY

A PERONIST PARTY CONGRESS AUGUST 23, RATHER THAN HEALING SPLITS, WIDENED THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO PRINCIPAL FACTIONS AND FURTHER DAMAGED MRS. PERON'S PRESTIGE AND POSITION:

--ONE FACTION, OUTRAGED AT MRS. PERON'S PACKING OF THE NEW PARTY LEADERSHIP WITH HER OWN PERSONAL FOLLOWERS, WALKED OUT OF THE MEETING.

--THE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE PARTY ARE NOW SO DEEP THAT OPPONENTS MAY DEMAND THAT MRS. PERON'S LEADERSHIP SLATE BE OUSTED AND A NEW CONGRESS CONVENED.

WHETHER OR NOT THE NEW LEADERSHIP IS OFFICIALLY REPUDIATED, IT IS THOROUGHLY COMPROMISED IN A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE PERONIST PARTY AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RESTORE ORDER IN MRS. PERON'S MAIN POLITICAL BASE.

5. NIGERIAN REGIME DUCKS CIVILIAN RULE ISSUE

EMBASSY LAGOS REPORTS THAT CHIEF OF STAFF OF SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, BRIGADIER OBASANJO, WIDELY CONSIDERED NUMBER TWO MAN IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT, STATED AT A WELL-PUBLICIZED PRESS CONFERENCE THAT:

--THERE WOULD BE NO PUBLIC PROBES INTO OFFICIAL CORRUPTION IN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AND THE NEW LEADERSHIP WOULD ADOPT A "LOW PROFILE."

--THE FIRST MAJOR SPEECH BY THE NEW HEAD OF STATE WILL INCLUDE A POLITICAL PROGRAM IN "OUTLINE FORM, AND WILL ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: OBASANJO'S SIDESTEPPING OF THE ISSUE OF RETURN TO NON-MILITARY RULE IS DUE TO THE NEW REGIME'S RELUCTANCE TO BOX ITSELF IN WITH SPECIFIC DATES, ALTHOUGH CERTAIN CONCESSIONS TO POPULAR PRESSURE, (I.E. STUDY
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PANELS AND A POSSIBLE DRAFT CONSTITUTION), MAY BE CONSIDERED. WITH REGARD TO CORRUPTION, IT APPEARS THAT SELECTED EX-OFFICIALS MAY BE THROWN TO THE WOLVES, BUT THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY LEST ONE INVESTIGATION SET OFF A CHAIN REACTION THAT WOULD ENGULF SOME OF ITS OWN MEMBERS.

6. UN: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY NOT YET DECIDED

USUN REPORTS THAT THE LATEST SOUTH AFRICAN THINKING ON ATTENDANCE AT THE UNGA IS FOR THEIR MISSION TO REMAIN OPEN, BUT NOT TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS OR ATTEND MEETINGS. THIS POLICY:

--WOULD ALLOW THE SAG TO PURSUE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITHOUT EMBARRASSING EITHER THE OAU STATES OR PRETORIA.

MISSION COMMENT: THIS MAY BE THE FORMULA THE "SOFT LINERS" ARE PLUMPING FOR, BUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHARGE HAS WARNED THAT "HARD LINERS" IN THE SAG MAY TRY TO FORCE THE ISSUE TO A HEAD THIS YEAR. INGERSOLL

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